

REMARKS:

Claims 1 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nose et al. in view of Mendelovich et al and Akemi et al. As for claim 1, the Examiner determined in the Office Action that Akemi et al. teaches the preferred height of the projections to be 2 to 1000 μm .

There is nothing in Akemi et al. that discloses or suggests the present invention. Akemi et al. discloses a drug-containing pressure-adhesive sheet 1. The sheet 1 comprises an adhesive layer 3, which is sandwiched by a support 2 and a separator 4. The sheet 1 is enclosed in a package 6. The outer surfaces of the support 2 and the separator 4 have projections (see, for example, Fig. 3). First of all, the package 6 cannot be considered the ribbon substrate of the present invention because the Akemi package 6 is not coated with an adhesive film. In other words, unlike the ribbon substrate of the present invention which is coated with an adhesive film, the Akemi package 6 is not sticky and presents no concern that it may adhere to anything.

Second, the unevenness 5 of Akemi et al. cannot be considered the projections recited in the present invention. The unevenness 5 is provided to create a gap between the sheet 1 and package 6. The Akemi specification states that "[t]herefore, even where an adhesive is pressed out of the adhesive layer of the sheet or where a plasticizer or any liquid component oozes out of the adhesive layer, such a component hardly adheres to the inside of the packaging material, and the sheet can be taken out of the package with ease on use." (col. 6, lines 41-46). None of the support 2, separator 4 and package 6 is sticky and effects bonding between them. Unlike the projections of the present invention which function to prevent the adhesive layer from firmly adhering to the interior of the housing, the unevenness 5 provided for the support 2 and separator 4 is not meant to prevent bonding of the support 2 with the package 6 or the separator 4 with the package 6. Instead, the unevenness 5 functions as spacers between the support 2 and the package 6, and the separator 4 and the package 6. It creates spaces between them to prevent a pressed out adhesive from the sheet 1 from adhering to the package 6.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion to combine Akemi et al. with either Nose et al. or Mendelovich et al. As discussed above, the Akemi package 6 cannot be

considered the ribbon substrate of the present invention. Also, the unevenness 5 of Akemi et al. cannot be considered the projection of the present invention. There is nothing in Akemi et al. that provides suggestion to combine itself with the other references. Thus, no one would be motivated to combine Akemi et al. with Nose et al. or Mendelovich et al. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowable over Nose et al. and Mendelovich et al. and Akemi et al.

As for claim 23, the Examiner determined in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the ratio of a pitch to a height of the projections equal to or lower than 22.0 because Akemi et al. teaches that the percentage of the projection height and pitch are result effective variables dependent upon the composition of the adhesive. This is a stretch of the disclosure in Akemi et al. Akemi et al. only states that “[s]uch a proper area proportion varies depending on the kind or composition of the adhesive used in the adhesive layer.” (col. 4, lines 33-36). It does not state that the height or the pitch of the unevenness varies depending upon the adhesive composition. In any event, as discussed above, there is no suggestion to combine Akemi et al. with either Nose et al. or Mendelovich et al. Therefore, claim 23 should be allowable over Nose et al., Mendelovich et al. and Akemi et al.

Since claims 1 and 23 should be allowable over the cited references, their dependent claims should also be allowable. However, Applicant hereby traverses the rejections made to some of the dependent claims.

In rejecting claim 4, the Examiner found that the references as combined (see Mendelovich et al.) disclose a transfer tool wherein each projection has a higher point than any other points thereof in its configuration. Claim 4 recites that each projection has only one highest point regardless of whether the projection has a peak or a rounded top (underline added). Mendelovich et al. discloses the bar member 66. The term “bar” suggests that it cannot have only one highest point.

In rejecting claims 14 and 30, the Examiner determined that Bannon et al. discloses a surface coating for packages which includes zinc stearate for controlling and reducing the cohesive tendency of the material being transported from adhering to its container. The Examiner’s understanding is correct in that Bannon et al. discusses

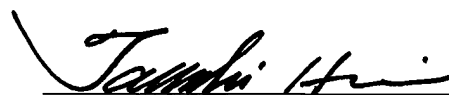
coating of non-stick material. But please be advised that Bannon et al. is silent about a material that contains a non-stick material. Coating something on a surface and mixing something as a content are different. Thus, it is believed that Bannon et al provides no teaching on the invention recited in claims 14 and 30.

In rejecting claims 15 and 31, the Examiner indicated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to determine the optimal weight percentage of the non-stick material in the composition of the housing and its interior surfaces to maximize the resistance of the housing and the roughened surface to adhesion of the coating film. The Examiner further indicated, citing *In re Aller*, that where general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is no inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. It is believed that *In re Aller* is not applicable here. As discussed above, no general conditions of claim 15 or 31 are disclosed in Bannon et al. (see *Ex Parte Michael J. Sullivan*, 2003 WL 23014513 (Bd.Pat.App & Interf.)).

In rejecting claim 24, the Examiner determined that Cheng shows a non-stick surface wherein a series of pointed projections (Fig. 3, element 8) having a tapered angle between 5 and 120° is effective for preventing articles from sticking to the surface. Please note that the Cheng projections do not have the highest point and that they are all walls having the same height therealong. Thus, Cheng is silent about a tip of each projection as recited in claim 24.

Respectfully submitted,

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